

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6045**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1299

**NOTE PREPARED:** Oct 30, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Senior Fishing Licenses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Ulmer

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ GENERAL  
☒ DEDICATED  
☒ FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill discontinues the fishing license exemption for residents who are at least 65 years of age. It establishes a senior fishing license for residents who are at least 60 years of age.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with establishing new fees. However, it is expected that the DNR will be able to cover the costs of any additional administrative expenses given its existing resources.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Summary.* This bill discontinues the fishing license exemption for residents who are at least 65. The bill also provides that the minimum amount that can be assessed an individual who is at least 60 is \$0.00. If the DNR establishes the fee at the minimum of \$0.00, the net potential fiscal impact is a decrease in state and federal revenue of approximately \$676,000.

However, if the DNR establishes the fee for those 60 and over at \$3, the bill could result in additional revenue of an estimated \$500,000. This estimate is based on reduced license fee revenues from the 60-64 age group and increased revenues attributable to increased license fee revenues and federal revenues for the 65-and-over age group.

*Background Information:* Currently, individuals 65 and over are exempt from paying the fee for a fishing license. Under the bill, these individuals would continue to pay a minimum of \$0.00. Currently, the fee for a yearly license to fish is \$17 for those at least 60 years of age but younger than 65. Retailers who sell licenses retain \$0.75 per license. The DNR receives \$16.25. Under the bill, the fee could be reduced to \$0.00.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Indiana's resident population between 18 and 65 was 3.7 million. In 2005, 460,695 residents purchased a license. Based on these figures approximately 12% of the population purchased a license. Indiana's resident population between 60-64 was 235,675. Applying the 12% fishing population percentage to the 60-64 age bracket results in an estimated number of anglers in the 60-64 age bracket of 28,000. These individuals currently pay a minimum of \$16.25 to the DNR for a total of \$455,000. Given this figure, the DNR could lose up to \$455,000 in state revenue if the fee is set at the minimum of \$0.00.

In addition to a potential loss in state revenue, if the DNR sets the fee at the proposed minimum of \$0.00, the DNR would also lose federal reimbursement for each fishing license sold. In order to receive federal reimbursement, the DNR must charge a fee that is at least equal to the cost of producing the license, which is about \$3 if the applicant does not renew over the Internet. The federal reimbursement per license was \$7.90 in 2004. Given this figure, the state could lose a potential \$221,000 (or \$7.90 X 28,000 anglers) in federal dollars each year.

Revenue from the sale of fishing licenses goes into the dedicated Fish and Wildlife Fund that is used to pay the operating expenses of the DNR Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

Four surrounding states have senior fishing licenses: Michigan (\$11.20); Illinois (\$6.75); Kentucky (\$5); and Ohio (\$10).

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Gregg McCollam, Assistant Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR, (317) 232-4091.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bernadette Bartlett, 317-232-9586.